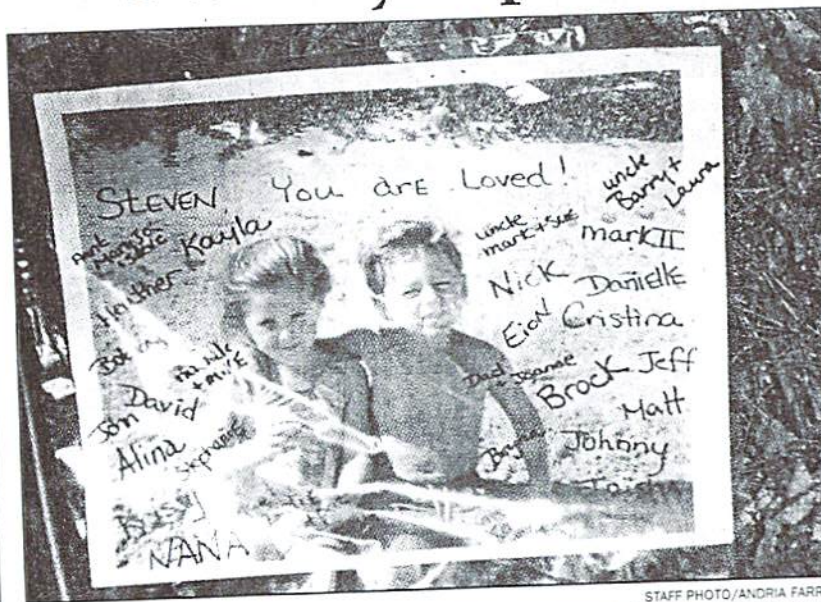


"May Angels Lead You In"

# Duxbury copes with fatal accident

By Andria Farrell  
ANFARREL@CNC.COM



STAFF PHOTO/ANDRIA FARRELL

Friends have placed photos, flowers and mementos at the site of a car crash that claimed the life of DHS senior Steven Laramée, Jr.

In a small community like Duxbury, tragedy hits hard and shakes the core of everyone.

Last Saturday night, that core was shaken when one of three boys involved in a Friday morning car crash died.

A Sunday afternoon vigil, meant as a time to pray for the victims changed its purpose as people gathered to remember the driver of the car, Steven Laramée Jr., 18, who died from his injuries.

More than 500 people came to share their memories and to console each other. Through stories, both funny and moving, songs and poems, the young man's life was remembered.

Steven was driving on Union Bridge Road on his way to school with his brother Eoin, 16, in the backseat, and fellow senior Spencer Meine, 17, in the front passenger seat, when he apparently lost control of the 1986 Audi station wagon he was driving.

According to deputy fire chief Chris West, the car knocked over a small pine tree, sending the tree into the road, before the car wrapped around a large oak tree. He believed seatbelts were worn, but could not confirm it because of the damage to the car.

Due to the severity of the accident, the Pembroke and Marshfield fire departments assisted in the rescue effort. All three teens were removed, using two sets of the Jaws of

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# Students mourn loss of DHS senior

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Life, and transported via ambulance to the Chandler School, where they were flown to Boston hospitals via Boston Med Flight and, New England LifeFlight.

West said an engine from Ashdod Fire Station was first on the scene, arriving within two minutes of the 911 call, communicating the severity of the accident and calling for the airlift.

At one point, the department had to use one of its fire engines to pull the car from the tree to obtain better access to those trapped inside, something normally not done, West said. Because of the difficulty in getting to the youths, West said they needed to move the car for better access and quicker removal.

"It was quite labor-intensive, emotionally draining for the guys doing it," West said. "It was hard not to be able to just reach in and get them out; we had to cut seats out to see where patients were trapped. It was very physical and emotionally draining."

School Superintendent Susan Skeiber said students were told about the accident Friday and counselors were made available. Throughout the weekend, the Duxbury Student Union provided counseling sessions and a place for students to meet and grieve. On Sunday, the Interfaith Council arranged a vigil on the Town Green, where many had just learned, or were learning, Steven had died.

"I think it helped tremendously to be together and to go through the grieving together," Skeiber said.

Over the weekend, the school district's crisis team met and established a plan of action to respond to the tragedy. Starting Monday morning, the high school had additional counselors on hand for students to talk to, and at 2 p.m. that day, many students gathered in the auditorium to remember Steven and say prayers for Eoin and Spencer.

"I think it has been helpful to them through this process for them sharing with each other stories and remembrances," Skeiber said. "We will continue over the next days to be alert and teachers

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are being watchful of the kids and watching out for those in need of help and support."

On Monday, three banners were left in the cafeteria and the senior's lounge for students to sign and write messages on. The banners remained on the tables through the following days and will be displayed in the school.

Steven lived in Kingston, attending both Kingston Intermediate School and Silver Lake Regional schools, until moving to Duxbury five years ago. During his time in Kingston he attended Clark Camp in Plymouth and played both basketball and Little League in Kingston.

Eoin, who suffered a shattered femur, was released from the hospital on Tuesday. Spencer underwent major surgery earlier in the week. According to David Avruch, public affairs coordinator for Massachusetts General Hospital he is listed in good condition. In a Facebook page created for Spencer recent postings state he is recovering well.

As the community, family, and friends continue to find peace after the tragedy, Steven was laid to rest. On Wednesday evening, a wake was held at the Cartmell Funeral Home in Plymouth, and a Mass of Christian burial took place Thursday morning at Holy Family Church.